Business Teachers Embrace Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service at Summer Conference

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New-Student Welcome Is Warmer Than Ever

If Dwight Nelson, Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) senior pastor, ever sprinkles a spoonful of complimentary Fruit Loops on your sundae, chances are you’re enjoying the All Fired Up 2005, “We Scream for Ice Cream.” With its fusion of fun, food, friendship, and the formation of vital connections between incoming students, campus services, and student organizations, the lip-licking event hallmarked the spirit of Andrews University’s new student orientation week.

Designed to equip new students with the tools necessary to succeed in college, this year’s All Fired Up 2005 ran from Aug. 21 to 28—beginning with First Stop on Sun. and concluding with the beach party and alumni BBQ the following Sun. While new students’ parents and siblings were encouraged to participate in initial events, including President’s Welcome Luncheon on Mon., most left by Tues. But thanks to family groups, co-mentored by pairs of student volunteers and coached by staff members, students were hardly left to succumb to homesickness in their dorm rooms. Steve Yeagley, assistant to the vice president of student services and orientation coordinator, remarked, “Not only do [family groups] launch crucial connections, they also foster friendships students often maintain throughout their college experience.”

Business Teachers Embrace Spirituality, Scholarship, and Service at Summer Conference

July 14–16 saw Andrews University’s Chan Shun Hall suited up and bustling with business teachers eager to subscribe to comprehensive excellence during the fifth biennial Adventist business teachers summer conference, “Commitment to Scholarship, Spirituality, and Service: Business Education Today.” Jointly sponsored by the Andrews University School of Business and Adventist Midwest Health, the conference drew a global representation of Adventist business faculty.

Morning plenaries jump-started each of the conference’s three days and regularly drew audiences in excess of the forty officially registered attendees. Plenary presenters David Neff of Christianity Today International, and Samford University’s professor of ethics, Wilton Bunch, urged attendees to anchor their business interactions in a solid biblical vision.

After morning plenaries, each day featured several breakout sessions led by faculty from nine schools. According to Ann Gibson, School of Business dean, these personal research presentations “provide an opportunity for [Adventist] business teachers to network and discuss issues of common concern.”

The conference’s first day culminated with a Thurs. evening banquet for attendees, their spouses, and various members of Andrews University’s faculty and staff. Following the dinner, banquet attendees benefited from Sybil Jordan Hampton, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation president, whose life experiences illustrated the conference’s dictum and encouraged attendees to actively pursue spirituality, scholarship, and service in the face of an increasingly secular business environment.

One attendee shared this about the conference’s impact, “Attendees walk away with many benefits, not the least of which is a total re-commitment to excellence in business higher education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.”